CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS AT THE DEMISE OF H. H. THE GAEKWAR OF BARODA AND HIS HOLINESS THE POPE PIOUS XI.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR ; I beg leave to make a reference to the passing away of two great world personalities, His Holiness Pope Pius XI and His Highness Sir Sayaji Rao, the Gaekwar of Baroda and wish to move the following resolution :

"That this House places on record its feelings of profound sorrow over the sad demise of the Maharaja Sir Sayaji Rao, the Gaekwar of Baroda and request the President to convey--

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Sir, I did not hear the member, not even one word of his.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Krishna Iyer's professional experience in speaking louder will be adopted.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR . It is not that I am not speaking loud enough for the members to hear, but the resonance of this Hall, which is rather –

PRESIDENT : As a matter of fact that has been noted and it will be set right.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR : I shall read as loud as possible. The following is the text of the resolution :—

"That this House places on record its feelings of profound sorrow over the sad demise of the Maharaja Sir Sayaji Rao, the Gaekwar of Baroda and request the President to convey the sympathy of the House to Her Highness the Maha Rani, the present Gaekwar Maharaja Pratbab Singh and other members of His family."

It may be pertinent to make a few observations about the life and career of that great personality. His Highness's career has always been a romantic one. He was born a commoner. At the age of 12 he was adopted by the Maharaja Muthar Rao Gaekwar of Baroda. For almost a year he passed his life in something like a prison, during the reign of his elder brother. He then became the Ruler, the distinguished Ruler of a Sovereign State. In Europe and America, he is referred to as the richest of Indian princes. He held the world's record for oriental splendour. During his administration, free and compulsory primary education was introduced and worked with success in the Baroda State. His administration is also noteworthy for the inauguration and success of the Library Movement. In 1936 he celebrated his Jubilee at the sixtieth year of his administration when he made a donation of one crore of rupees towards the uplift of the depressed classes. In many other ways he has distinguished himself. He presided over the World Federation of Faiths. Baroda and Travancore have been connected in more than one way. For the uplift of the State from its backwardness to its present modern position, Travancore lent Baroda the services of that great and distinguished Statesman, Sir T. Madhava Rao. To come down to pathos, Baroda has been indebted to Travancore in recent time for the development of tapioca cultivation. With these few words I beg to commend the resolution to the unanimous acceptance of the House.

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MR. N. V. JOSEPH : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution for the acceptance of the House :—

" This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of His Holiness Pope Pius XI and extends its heart-felt condolence to the Catholic Church in the loss she has sustained by the passing away of one of the greatest of Popes. "

" Sir, it is the most painful duty of mine today to move this motion for the acceptance of this House. Myself being a son of the Catholic Church you can realise with what feelings I stand up at this moment to speak a few words on " Our Holy Father " as we Catholics call him. By his death the Catholic Church has lost one of the greatest of Popes known to history and the world has lost one of the greatest of men.

I need not remind this House that the Pope is the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church whose members come up to nearly 400 millions. It can be truly said that the sun never sets on the Catholic Church. It has its adherents in every climes and in every country and among all the races of mankind. It is not only international but it is even super-national. It is not mine on this occasion to dilate upon the greatness of that time-honoured, moral and religious institution which claims to stand for Glory of God in the Highest and peace for men of good-will on earth.

His Holiness Pius XI was elected to the Papal Throne in 1922, Feb. 6 and tomorrow is the Papse day to be celebrated all over the world. His Pontificate had to face all the upheavals that have come as the aftermath of Great War. Europe and consequently the whole Christendom and more or less the whole world has begun to see the mortal conflicts between Bolshevism and Fascism, the far-reaching effects of which on the social order of things lie hidden in the laps of Gods. His Holiness the Pope had to come face to face Mussolini, that man of destiny on the issue of what was known in diplomatic world as the "Great Roman " question. The solution of that question is the finest record of the Statesmanship of Pius XI. As the result of that settlement the Pope has become an independent secular sovereign although the area of his territory will not come up to even a square mile, if I am not mistaken. The Catholic world cannot but feel the loss of Pius XI at this juncture. If I speak on the personal greatness and achievements of the supreme Pontiff, I can go on for days together.

I have touched, however meagrely it may be, upon the greatness of the Institution which his Holiness was representing and upon his personal greatness. These are sufficient reasons for this House to accept this motion. But that is not all. We in Travancore have our own particular reasons for bereavement. Out of the 16 lakhs of Christians in Travancore 8 lakhs are Catholics and Pius XI was their supreme religious head.

Christianity has been in our country from the first century of the Christian Era and it is one of the proudest pages in the illustrious history of our Royal Family that the Travancore Government have.—I may be permitted to say—adopted them as their own children. The

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Sovereigns of Travancore though they are Hindus, why should I say though, I will say because they were Hindus, have not only tolerated but welcomed them. It is but an historical fact that it was a Maharaja of Travancore who permitted that great Catholic Apostle St. Francis Xavier to preach Christianity among the fisherfolk of South Travancore and helped him even with money.

I believe the Catholic subjects of His Gracious Highness the Maharaja fully realise these circumstances as one of their co-religionists, that Flemish General De La Noy, the loyal servant of the great Marthanda Varma had done in days of old.

Last, but not least, of the reasons why this House should pass this motion is the most cordial, not only official, but personal relationship that has existed between His Gracious Highness our beloved Maharaja and His Holiness the Pope Pius XI. It will certainly go into the history of the World that even though before the time of His Gracious Highness Sri Bala Rama Varma Maharaja there had been official contacts with our sovereigns and the Popes it is destined to His Gracious Highness our beloved Maharaja and His Holiness the Pope Pius XI to have an interview in person. The House will recall that during the European tour of His Highness the Maharaja and Their Highnesses the Maharani and the first Princess, our Royal Family paid a visit to His Holiness Pius XI and how cordial was that interview. Hence it is only proper and in the fitness of things that this House, which is the creation of His Highness the Maharaja, to pay their homage to the great soul of the departed supreme pontiff. With these words, I request the House to accept this motion."

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: Sir, I associate myself with all the sentiments, expressed by the honourable members Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar and Mr. N. V. Joseph in moving the condolence resolutions.

Sir, in the death of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, India has lost one of the brilliant rulers and one of the greatest of statesmen. It was during his time that Baroda came to the forefront of the Indian States. It was during his time that primary education was made compulsory and free in Baroda. As the honourable mover said, he bestowed his attention upon the uplift of the depressed classes and he was a great champion of their cause. It is said that Dr. Ambedkar, that stalwart protagonist of the depressed classes, was educated by the Gaekwar. He was one of the rulers who had the longest experience as a ruler among his contemporaries. It was given to him to rule over his country for many years and benefit the country with his benevolent rule and set an example of what a monarch's rule is in uplifting the condition of the people committed to his care. I do not now wish to dilate upon the very many acts of the administration which will go down to history as monuments of the beneficent rule of a benevolent monarch.

I too being a member of the Catholic Church, it is not proper for me to speak of the greatness of its religious head. Pope Pius XI was the 260th successor of the Church. He was born on 31st may 1857 and was elected Pope, as said by the mover of the motion, on the 6th February 1922. Catholic Church was to celebrate the Pope's Day tomorrow

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[Mr. E. P. Varghese[:

and strangely enough the sad news came that the Pope has passed away. He was a great scholar. He was the librarian of that famous library in Vatican and his encyclicals as Pope bear testimony to the scholarship that he attained during these years. He was not only a religious head, not only fond of books but also a great statesman and a mountaineer. On one or two prior occasions it was heard that he was dangerously ill. But his vitality as an Alpine climber stood in good stead and he survived. But at last the day has come when he was to pass away. In his death, I am sure not only the Catholic Church but the whole world has lost a great man. When nations were fighting with each other it was his voice that stood up for justice irrespective of caste or creed, nation or race. He protested against the treatment accorded to the Jews in Germany and the Catholics there. His statements have been bold and straightforward. On the question of labour and capital and the social order his encyclicals gave the right lead. His views on education of youth are also worthy of note. He was a staunch fighter against the evils of communism and he spared no time in condemning the atheistic influence of communism. In the passing of a great man, apart from being the head of the greatest denomination that exists in the world, the world has lost a great man. I feel that it is in the fitness of things that this House pass these condolence resolutions in the passing away of one of the greatest sons of the world and one of the greatest sons of India.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: I wish to say a few words on this motion. His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda has been able to set an example to the other ruling princes of India. During his period of administration, he was able to achieve a good many things in his country. He was one of the greatest rulers. In his death India has sustained a great loss.

His Holiness the Pope is the supreme spiritual head of a large section of the intelligent and enlightened section of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. His supremacy and jurisdiction are not confined to any particular community. That transcends limits of countries. His life has been for the benefit, welfare and happiness of mankind. The name of His Holiness the Pope will always be cherished in the minds of a large section of His Highness' subjects in Travancore. The cordial relationship that has existed between the Royal Family and the Pope is wellknown. His Holiness the Pope met in audience with their Royal Highnesses. His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore was the first to cross the seas and meet the Pope and to receive his blessings. His career has been distinguished by his statements for the cause of truth under Mussolini and also on account of his strenuous efforts for the cause of peace in the world. In his death world has become poorer. Sir, I respectfully second the motion that has been brought forward.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I also wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my predecessors. In His

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Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, India has lost not merely one of the most conspicuous of rulers but one of the most admired and respected among the princes of India. He succeeded to the throne long before, I believe, before any one in this Assembly was born. His experience as an administrator has been unrivalled and his long rule has marked an era of continuous and ever increasing prosperity to his State. The early attention he bestowed on the educational advancement of his country and the emphasis he laid on the need for primary education and the establishment of a broad and Scientific library System have brought his people in the matter of education on a par with the most advanced states of India. He has been in more than one way the model for the other princes to follow. And today when the Indian states have to face important all-India problems the disappearance of an experienced administrator, and an able ruler like His Highness the Gaekwar is to be deeply regretted I sincerely join with the mover of the motion and express the regret of this Assembly in that instance.

Now, turning to the other motion that was moved here let me also express the most sincere sorrow at the very sad news we had today Though not myself a Catholic, not even a Christian in the ordinary sense, I believe, as a Hindu and as Travancorean I am behind no one in feeling the deep sense of sorrow on the sad demise of His Holiness the Pope. I have had occasion to move intimately with members of the Catholic clergy as a student, and I know they always have an affectionate corner in their heart for Travancore. And His Holiness the Pope had always a very warm corner in his heart for this country. We had occasions that showed us that his Holiness the Pope loved Travancore and His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. Moreover Travancore is a country where the Catholic community is one of the most important communities and as such his relations with our State was doubly important. And as a Travancorean I share the sorrow that has fallen upon the sister community. Again as a Hindu who looks upon all religions as leading towards the salvation of humanity, and as one who can draw inspiration, spiritual and religious, from every prophet and look upon him as an Avathar of God, I give the expression to my heart-felt sorrow on the demise of a Great man who was not only the custodian but the symbol of the highest and most ancient traditions of one of the important religions of this world. With these words I support the motions before the House.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*) : സർ, ദിവംഗതരായ ബറോഡാ മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമേനിയുടെയും മാർപ്പാപ്പാ തിരുമേനിയുടെയും പേരിൽ അനുശോചനം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ സർവ്വാത്മനാ അനുമോദിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ അതീവ താൽപ്പര്യമുള്ളവനാണ്. സാമന്തരാജാക്കന്മാർക്കു മാതൃകാപരൻ എന്നു സുപ്രസിദ്ധി സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മഹാനായ മഹാരാജാവു് ഭൂലോകസുപ്രസിദ്ധമായ ക്ഷേത്രപ്രവേശനവിളംബരംകൊണ്ടു് സകല ജനങ്ങളുടെയും അഭിനന്ദനത്തിനു

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[Mr. T. T. Kesavan Sastri].

പാത്രീഭൂതനായ നമ്മുടെ ചിത്തിരതിരുനാൾ തിരുമേനിയെപ്പോലെ സകല ജനങ്ങളുടെയും അളിനന്ദനം യഥാവിധി ആർജ്ജിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു തിരുമേനിയാണെന്നുള്ളത് ഇവിടെ നടന്ന അഭിപ്രായ പ്രകടനങ്ങളാൽ സദസ്യർ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഭാരതീയരായ പിന്നോക്ക സമുദായക്കാർക്ക് ആലോകാന്തം സ്മരിക്കത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ സർവഥാ പൂജിതനായ ബറോഡാ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമേനി അപ്രതീക്ഷിതമായി ഇഹലോകവാസം വെടിഞ്ഞത് അവരിൽ നിരന്തരമായ സ്മരണയെ ഉളവാക്കുന്നതാണു. സർവദാ ലോകാരാധ്യനായ മാർപ്പാപ്പാ തിരുമേനിയുടെ പേരിൽ അനുശോചനം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുക എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രാമാണ്യമേറിയ ഒരു സംഭവമായിട്ടാണു ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ സർവദാ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ആ പുണ്യാത്മാക്കളുടെ ആത്മാവിനു സർവമംഗളങ്ങളും ആശംസിക്കുന്നതിൽ പ്രത്യേകം പ്രേരിതനായിക്കൊണ്ട് ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച പ്രമേയത്തോടു അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We are today meeting when the world is poorer by the passing away of two great figures, His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda and His Holiness the Pope Pius XI. On behalf of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, I associate myself with the resolutions moved and the sertiments expressed by the members on the floor of this House. Born on the 10th March 1863 His Highness the late Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda was called to the Gadi in the year 1875 at the very early age of 12 and was invested with ruling powers in 1831 on completing 18 years of age. When His Highness came to the Gadi, Baroda was much different from what it is now, Under the able guidance of an administrator like the late Sir, T. Madhava Rao of revered memory and of Mr. F. A. H. Elliot, his tutor, His Highness imbibed great sagacity and far-sightedness which characterised him as a ruler. The modern Baroda is the making of His Highness.

Throughout the long rule of 63 years His Highness set a high ideal of service before him. He established free and compulsory primary education, fought against anti-social practices like untouchability, purdah, child marriage and forced widowhood encouraged the co-operative movement with a view to promote the rural prosperity in the State and revived cottage crafts and industries and thereby helped to promote the interests and welfare of His Highness' subjects in various directions. At the Round Table Conference he played an important part. His strength as a ruler was not only in his own personal integrity and zeal but also in his ability to secure the selfless services of a line of able administrators.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not refer to the friendly relations that subsisted between Their Highnesses of Baroda and Travancore. His Highness the Gaekwar visited Travancore in July 1915 and stayed for about 12 days in the State when our Gracious Maharaja was but a child. Some of us could recall the opinion expressed by His Highness the Gaekwar and Her Highness about our Maharaja and Maharani.

Friendly relations have been subsisting for several centuries between the Holy See of Rome and the Travancore State. The vast majority of the Christian subjects of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore are members of the Catholic Church. The relations between the Holy See and the State have been drawn closer during the reign of the present Maharaja. As recently as 1933 during the course of His Highness the Maharaja's tour His Highness accompanied by the present Dewan paid a visit to His Holiness Pious XI. Not only was His Highness received with courtesy by His Holiness on that occasion but since then also His Holiness had been so solicitous about His Highness that whenever a Bishop from this land visited His Holiness he used to enquire particularly about His Highness and the Ruling family.

During the time of His Holiness important changes have been made in the ecclesiastical administration of the Catholic Church in this State. The ecclesiastical hierarchy has been more and more Indianised. One Archbishopric has been created in Trivandrum and two new dioceses one at Kottar and the other at Trivandrum have been established. His Holiness was a patron of learning and he took a keen interest in the educations and general welfare of the Catholics in particular including the Catholic subjects of His Highness the Maharaja.

I therefore on behalf of the Government associate myself entirely with the sentiments expressed by the honourable members on the floor of this House.

PRESIDENT: Before formally putting these two propositions to the vote and calling upon the honourable members of this legislature to signify their sentiments in the usual manner, it may not be out of place for me, as one who had the privilege of personal acquaintance with both the notable personages whose lamentable demise has been adverted to, to say just a few words.

So far as His Highness the Maharaja of Gækwar was concerned, I do not desire to say much about his career and his achievements, because that career and those achievements are part of modern Indian History. It is sufficient for me to point out and for us all to remember that in many directions His Highness the Maharaja Gækwar was a pioneer in the true sense of the word. He was a pioneer in the modern methods personal and intimate responsibility to his subjects over whom he ruled. He was a pioneer in breaking down age-long beliefs and outworn superstitions in the pursuit of what he considered the right path of true progress. He was a pioneer in the sense that along with a vivid sense of the unseen and with a deep religious belief in his religion he combined a belief in progress along modern lines. The manner in which

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[President.]

he brought to bear in the administration of his great country his unrivalled experience and his great capacity for the solution of manifold problems that confronted him are matters for future historians to record with gratitude and with admiration. He was a pioneer in primary education, a pioneer in the library movement, a pioneer in social reform and rural reconstruction, he was a pioneer in the manifestation of vivid responsibility to the lowliest among his people regarding himself as their trustee and guardian of their welfare. May he rest in peace.

As for His Holiness—Pope Pius XI—I first met him when he was at Milan and thereafter I met him when he was in the Vatican. It has been stated to-day that it was my privilege to accompany His Highness during the interview which His Holiness the Pope gave to the Sovereign of this country, an interview during which he displayed a varied acquaintance with the problems and the conditions of Travancore, an interview which proved how vivid and continued was his interest in, and knowledge of, the State and of all that pertained to it. He was a very great, very brave, and very religious man. As a diplomatist he was unrivalled. The concordat between Italy and the Vatican was his work and it renewed the relationship, from the secular point of view, between Italy and the See of Rome, which was interrupted for many a long and wearisome years. It was he again, who against tremendous opposition, voiced the feelings of humanity when great turmoils permeated Europe. His inauguration of the Catholic Action Group was the result of both enlightened religion and great statesmanship.

It may not be known to many that one of his first reputations—he had many reputations—was that of a mountaineer. His Holiness the Pope's first book was his account of his mountaineering adventures in Europe. He was an authority on mountaineering. Next, he was one of the greatest authorities on Christian literature. After having acquired the reputation of a mountaineer, of a scholar, of a diplomatist, he acquired the reputation of an administrator as he was sent to Polland during the troublesome days of the Bolshevik invasion of Polland, and conducted his duties with conspicuous success.

It is right, as was pointed out, to put on record that his relationship with Travancore has been intimate in its friendly sympathy and was typical of true Catholicism. Let us signify our assent in the usual manner.

(The resolutions were passed *nem. con.* the whole House rising.)

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the situation created among the people of Kalkulam and Vilavankod taluks regarding the scarcity of water for drinking and agricultural purposes. Sir, the subject of to-day's motion has been brought to the notice of Government on more than one occasion. Sir, in the past, Government was concentrating on the irrigation

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